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SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE
Fourth session
Geneva, 16-18 December 1996
Item 2 (a) of the provisional agenda

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS

Note by the Executive Secretary

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Arrangements have been made for the fourth session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, from 16 to 18 December 1996. The session will be opened by the Chairman of the SBSTA at 10 a.m. on 16 December 1996, in conference room XX.

2. In accordance with the request made to the secretariat by the SBSTA at its third session, a round table on activities implemented jointly under the pilot phase will be held in conjunction with the fourth session of the SBSTA, in Geneva, on 17 December 1996.

II. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

3. The provisional agenda for the fourth session of the SBSTA, proposed after consultation with its Chairman, is as follows:

1. Opening of the session.

2. Organizational matters:

   (a) Adoption of the agenda;
   (b) Election of officers other than the Chairman;
   (c) Organization of the work of the session.

3. Cooperation with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

4. Methodological issues:

   (a) Longer-term programme of work;
   (b) Possible revisions to the guidelines for the preparation of communications by Parties included in Annex I to the Convention.

5. National communications from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention.

6. Activities implemented jointly under the pilot phase.

7. Development and transfer of technologies.

8. Report on the session.

III. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the session

4. The fourth session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice will be opened by the Chairman at 10 a.m. on 16 December 1996 in conference room XX.

2. Organizational matters

(a) Adoption of the agenda

5. The provisional agenda for the fourth session of the SBSTA is presented for adoption (see paragraph 3 above).

6. The SBSTA at its third session proposed that the secretariat explore further with non-governmental groups current mechanisms and procedures for consultation with a view to establishing how they might be made more efficient (FCCC/SBSTA/1996/13, para. 50 (d)). The suggestion was made in this regard that it would be helpful also to examine the initiatives that the IPCC is taking to obtain access to a wider range of expertise in the technological areas. On the basis of these discussions, a paper could be prepared for consideration by the SBSTA at its fourth session. Work is under way on this issue, and it is expected that a document will be available for the fifth session of the SBSTA.

(b) Election of officers other than the Chairman

7. At its third session, the Chairman of the SBSTA informed the SBSTA that the President of the Conference of the Parties (COP) was continuing his consultations on the election of officers of the Bureau other than the President (FCCC/SBSTA/1996/13, para. 7). Since the elections of officers of the Conference of the Parties and those of the SBSTA, the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) and the Ad Hoc Group on Article 13 (AG13) were being considered as a package, the SBSTA agreed at that session to the Chairman's proposal to await the outcome of these consultations before considering further the issue of the election of SBSTA officers other than the Chairman.

8. The Chairman of the Ad Hoc Group on the Berlin Mandate reported to the Conference of the Parties at its second session that, after consultations that he had conducted at the request of the President, it had not proved possible to reach agreement on the election of the Vice-Chairmen and Rapporteurs of the SBSTA, the SBI and the AG13 (FCCC/CP/1996/15, para. 18). He stated that it was his intention, however, to conduct further consultations in the very near future, with a view to allowing the respective subsidiary bodies to elect those officers at their sessions in December 1996.

9. The Chairman will provide an oral report on the status of the consultations. The SBSTA may consider the outcome of these consultations, and, taking into account the results, elect its officers other than the Chairman.

(c) Organization of the work of the session

(i) Documentation

10. A list of documents relating to the provisional agenda, as well as other documents available at the session, is contained in annex I below.

(ii) Schedule

11. The scheduling of meetings for the session will be based on the availability of facilities during normal working hours, when services are available for one meeting with interpretation from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. There will also be some facilities for informal meetings without interpretation. Delegations are urged to use these facilities fully by starting all meetings promptly at the scheduled time. A suggested approach to the organization of work is contained in annex II below.

12. The SBSTA, at its third session, requested the secretariat to organize a round table on activities implemented jointly under the pilot phase (AIJ) in conjunction with the fourth session of the SBSTA to provide for the exchange of information and experience on ongoing AIJ projects and programmes (FCCC/SBSTA/1996/13, para. 38 (b)). The round table on AIJ will take place on Tuesday, 17 December 1996.

3. Cooperation with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

13. At its second session, the SBSTA noted the decisions of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) at its eleventh session in Rome (December 1995) on its future work programme and particularly that it intends to continue to work on methodologies for greenhouse gas inventories (FCCC/SBSTA/1996/8, para. 38). The SBSTA was informed of the conclusions of the meetings of the Joint Working Group of officers of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the IPCC. Taking into account the statements made during the session, it requested the IPCC to undertake the activities in support of the SBSTA contained in annex III to document FCCC/SBSTA/1996/8, and to advise the SBSTA accordingly.

14. The Conference of the Parties, by its decision 9/CP.2,[1] requested the SBSTA to consider, at its fourth session, any possible additional revisions to the guidelines arising from, *inter alia*, any modifications to the IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories.

15. The IPCC held its twelfth plenary session in Mexico City from 11 to 13 September 1996, at which it revised the schedule and programme of work approved by the SBSTA at its second session. According to this revised schedule and programme, most of the technical papers previously planned for this year will not be available until 1997. The IPCC plenary also approved Phase II Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories as an addendum to the guidelines approved by the IPCC and the Convention bodies and developed a specific work programme for its greenhouse gas inventory activities during the year 1997. The IPCC plenary also requested guidance from the SBSTA concerning the direction of its work in the area of inventories of emissions from land-use change and forestry, as well as with regard to future long-term work on emission profiles.

16. The SBSTA will have before it a progress report prepared by the secretariat on cooperation with the IPCC (FCCC/SBSTA/1996/18) and the addendum to this document on the Revised 1996 Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories (FCCC/SBSTA/1996/18/Add.1). The IPCC will make available, for information purposes, copies of a technical report entitled "Technologies, policies and measures for mitigating climate change", prepared by the IPCC for the AGBM, as well as copies of the Revised 1996 Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories.

17. The SBSTA will be informed of the conclusions of the meeting of the Joint Working Group. The SBSTA may consider giving guidance to the IPCC with respect to its work on inventories and future work on long-term emission profiles. The SBSTA may also consider the revised schedule and programme of work of the IPCC and the addendum on the Revised 1996 Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories. A decision on whether and how to

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[1]For decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its second session, see document FCCC/CP/1996/15/Add.1.

use the Revised 1996 Guidelines for reporting will be particularly important as second national communications and additional inventory data are due in April 1997.

4. Methodological issues

(a) Longer-term programme of work

18. At its first session, the Conference of the Parties, by its decision 4/CP.1,[2] decided that the SBSTA, "drawing upon existing competent international bodies, including the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, ... should consider the methodological issues arising from the review of national communications, including those identified in the compilation and synthesis of national communications, and in available in-depth review reports, and make recommendations thereon to the Conference of the Parties at its second session ... and propose a work plan and timetable for longer-term activities relating to methodological questions (including inventory methodologies and methodologies for analysing impacts and mitigation options)" (see FCCC/CP/1995/7/Add.1).

19. At its third session, the SBSTA took note of a summary report by the secretariat of a meeting on methodologies held with relevant international organizations, and requested the secretariat to prepare a report on the matter for the fourth session (FCCC/SBSTA/1996/13, para. 70 (b)). The COP, by its decision 16/CP.2, requested the secretariat to provide to the SBI, at its fifth session in February/March 1997, some perspective of estimated financial requirements for the biennium 1998/1999. In this respect, guidance is sought on activities that might be undertaken by the secretariat and the Convention bodies.

20. The SBSTA will have before it a document on a longer-term programme of work for methodological issues (FCCC/SBSTA/1996/16). The document provides an overview of current methodological programmes supported by international organizations, identifies important gaps and defines questions for consideration by the SBSTA. The SBSTA will need to consider the priorities for methodological work, implications for the budget and necessary institutional and financial arrangements; it may also wish to indicate how it would like to proceed.

(b) Possible revisions to the guidelines for the preparation of communications by Parties included in Annex I to the Convention

21. By its decision 4/CP.1, the Conference of the Parties decided that the SBSTA should provide advice to the COP and to the SBI on further development, refinement, improvement and use of comparable methodologies for, *inter alia*, national inventories of emissions and removals of greenhouse gases and for projecting national emissions and removals of

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[2]For decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its first session, see document FCCC/CP/1995/7/Add.1.

greenhouse gases and comparing the respective contributions of different gases to climate change. In addition to the methodological issues arising in the context of cooperation with the IPCC (agenda item 3) and of activities implemented jointly under the pilot phase (agenda item 6), a number of other methodological issues need to be considered.

22. At its first session, the SBSTA considered the issue of the allocation and control of emissions from international bunker fuels, and requested the secretariat to provide an options paper on that subject for consideration at a future session (FCCC/SBSTA/1995/3). The SBSTA, at its second session, requested the secretariat to prepare a report suggesting possible revisions to the guidelines for the preparation of first communications by Annex I Parties (FCCC/SBSTA/1996/8), taking into account the submissions by Parties and the experience from the review process, for consideration at its third session, aiming at adopting revised guidelines at the second session of the COP in time for the preparation of the second national communications by Annex I Parties. It requested the secretariat to address issues such as electricity trade, bunker fuels, use of global warming potentials, land-use change and forestry, and temperature adjustments in the documentation to be prepared for consideration by the SBSTA.

23. In response to the above requests, the secretariat prepared several documents for consideration by the SBSTA (FCCC/SBSTA/1996/9 and Add.1 and 2). The SBSTA was not able to consider these addenda on methodological issues at its third session.

24. By its decision 9/CP.2, the Conference of the Parties requested the SBSTA to consider methodological issues relevant to national communications and, in particular, at its fourth session, to address those issues discussed in FCCC/SBSTA/1996/9/Add.1 and 2; and, if relevant conclusions on such issues could be drawn, to revise further the guidelines for the preparation of national communications as appropriate.

25. Accordingly, these documents are before the SBSTA at its fourth session. The SBSTA will also have available a compilation of comments provided by the Parties on these subjects (FCCC/SBSTA/1996/MISC.5).

26. The SBSTA may wish to take a decision at its fourth session on how emissions should be reported, in view of the fact that national communications from Annex I Parties are due in April 1997. Where relevant, it may also wish to consider how emissions should be allocated. The SBSTA may wish to bear in mind that these issues may also be relevant to the work of the AGBM, in particular as they are relevant to defining baselines and emission levels. In that regard, it may be helpful to reach agreement on these issues as soon as practical.

5. National communications from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention

27. By its decision 9/CP.2, the Conference of the Parties decided that the review process should be continued in accordance with the relevant decisions of the Conference of the

Parties. The secretariat will make a short oral report on the progress achieved in the process of review of communications from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention.

6. Activities implemented jointly under the pilot phase

Uniform reporting format

28. The SBSTA, at its second session, in coordination with the SBI, adopted an initial reporting framework on activities implemented jointly during the pilot phase, and decided to compile and synthesize, in cooperation with the SBI, and with the assistance of the secretariat, information transmitted by the Parties in the form of a report to be considered annually by the Conference of the Parties, and, based on this information, to develop suggestions for improving the initial reporting framework and for addressing methodological issues, as necessary (FCCC/SBSTA/1996/8).

29. At its third session, the SBSTA considered the progress report prepared by the secretariat on the basis of submissions by Parties (FCCC/CP/1996/14 and Add.1) and requested the secretariat to make suggestions with regard to a uniform reporting format to promote the consistency of reports with the initial reporting framework (FCCC/SBSTA/1996/13, para. 38 (a)). In response to this request, the secretariat has prepared document FCCC/SBSTA/1996/15 containing suggestions for an initial uniform reporting format based on the initial reporting framework. The SBSTA may consider this document and adopt an initial uniform reporting format to be applied when Parties report through designated national authorities on activities implemented jointly.

Update on activities implemented jointly

30. At its third session, the SBSTA, noting that reports on activities implemented jointly may be submitted at any time, invited the secretariat to prepare in concise form a first update reflecting reports and submissions by Parties for the fourth session of the SBSTA in December (FCCC/SBSTA/1996/13, para. 38 (d)). The update is contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/1996/17.

Methodological issues

31. At its third session, the SBSTA considered document FCCC/CP/1996/14 containing, in section V on a proposed work plan, some suggestions for methodological work, and requested the secretariat to prepare a list of methodological issues for consideration by the SBSTA at its fourth session (FCCC/SBSTA/1996/13, para. 38 (a)). The secretariat is preparing such a list (FCCC/SBSTA/1996/19), taking into account suggestions by Parties and experts.

7. Development and transfer of technologies

32. By its decision 7/CP.2, the COP requested the secretariat to give high priority to the development and completion of a survey of the initial technology needs, as well as technology information needs, of Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention, with a view to providing a progress report to the SBSTA at its fourth session. The COP also requested the secretariat to expedite the preparation of reports on adaptation technologies and the terms of transfer of technology and know-how conducive to mitigating and adapting to climate change, and, in preparing these reports, to draw on nominees with expertise in these fields from Parties. The secretariat will provide an oral report on progress achieved to date in response to these requests.

8. Report on the session

33. The relatively short duration of the session, as well as the nature and timing of the discussion, may affect the extent to which a draft text of the report on the work of the session could be available at the end of the session. The SBSTA may wish to adopt decisions or texts of substantive conclusions under the relevant items and sub-items of the agenda and, as at previous sessions, authorize the Rapporteur, if one is elected, to complete the report after the session, under the guidance of the Chairman and with the assistance of the secretariat. While every effort will be made to have conclusions available in all languages, this can only be possible if sufficient time is available for translation.

Annex I

DOCUMENTS BEFORE THE SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE AT ITS FOURTH SESSION

Documents prepared for the session

FCCC/SBSTA/1996/9/Add.1	Communications from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention: guidelines, schedule and process for consideration. Possible revisions to the guidelines for the preparation of national communications by Parties included in Annex I to the Convention. Methodological issues
FCCC/SBSTA/1996/9/Add.2	Communications from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention. guidelines, schedule and process for consideration. Detailed information on electricity trade and international bunker fuels
FCCC/SBSTA/1996/14	Provisional agenda and annotations
FCCC/SBSTA/1996/15	Activities implemented jointly under the pilot phase. Uniform reporting format
FCCC/SBSTA/1996/16	Methodological issues. Longer-term programme of work
FCCC/SBSTA/1996/17	Activities implemented jointly under the pilot phase. Update
FCCC/SBSTA/1996/18	Cooperation with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Progress report
FCCC/SBSTA/1996/18/Add.1	Cooperation with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Progress report. Revised 1996 IPCC guidelines for national greenhouse gas inventories
FCCC/SBSTA/1996/19	Activities implemented jointly under the pilot phase. Initial list of methodological issues
FCCC/SBSTA/1996/MISC.5	Methodological issues. Comments from Parties

Other documents for the session

FCCC/SBSTA/1996/8	Report of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice on the work of its second session, held at Geneva from 27 February to 4 March 1996
FCCC/SBSTA/1996/13	Report of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice on the work of its third session, Geneva, 9-16 July 1996
A/AC.237/NC/1 - 14 and FCCC/NC/1 - 19	Executive summaries of communications from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention
FCCC/IDR.1/(...)	Reports on in-depth reviews of communications from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention
FCCC/CP/1996/12	Commitments in Article 4. Second compilation and synthesis of first national communications from Annex I Parties: executive summary
FCCC/CP/1996/12/Add.1	Commitments in Article 4. Second compilation and synthesis of first national communications from Annex I Parties: report
FCCC/CP/1996/12/Add.2	Commitments in Article 4. Second compilation and synthesis of first national communications from Annex I Parties: tables of inventories of anthropogenic emissions and removals and projections for 2000
FCCC/CP/1996/15	Report of the Conference of the Parties on its second session, held at Geneva from 8 to 19 July 1996. Part One: Proceedings
FCCC/CP/1996/15/Add.1	Report of the Conference of the Parties on its second session, held at Geneva from 8 to 19 July 1996. Part Two: Action taken by the Conference of the Parties at its second session

Annex II

PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF WORK FOR THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

	Monday 16 December	Tuesday 17 December	Wednesday 18 December
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.	Items 1 2 3	Items 3 4	Items 5 6 7 4
3 p.m. to 6 p.m.	Items 3 4	Items 3 4	Items 3 4 8

A round table on activities implemented jointly under the pilot phase will be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on 17 December 1996.

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